new R&D schemes have been modified in priority list;

(b) if so, how many of them have so far been started;

(c) how many of them have been started in 1992;

(d) what was the amount utilised;

(e) whether any new highways are being planned in Madhya Pradesh: and

(f) if so, by what time work on these projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) In the Eighth Plan, 20 new R&D Schemes have been identified in the priority list.

(b) and (c) Four new Research Schemes have been sanctioned during 1993 and none during 1992.

(d) An amount of Rs. 7.4 lakhs has been released for these schemes so far.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Frustration in Truck Drivers by Highway Corruption

4150. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of truck drivers have been driven to the limits of frustration by brazen highway corruption;

(b) whether Government are aware that truck drivers being in no position to take on the law enforcing agencies, are forced to shell out crores of rupees every year to ensure a smooth passage for themselves and their vehicles through the country highways;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is a parallel enforcement wing in operation whereby permits are issued to truckers on a monthly, bimonthly or quarterly basis to officials; and

(d) if all the allegations indicated against (a), (b) and (c) above are correct, what steps have been made by the government to eradicate such corrupt practices; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Some complaints have been received from truck operators/All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) regarding harassment and highway robberies.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) As far as the question regarding harassment and highway robberies, State Governments have been requested to take the following steps to reduce such types of instances :—

(i) for vehicles coming from outside the State, the document in respect of goods carried may be checked as far as possible only at the border points, and within the State there would be no checking for such vehicles which have already been checked at the State borders;

(ii) as far as possible, the checking of drivers should be conducted jointly by the Police/Transport Departments on predetermined interval and there should not be a daily checking;

(iii) State Governments would also consider the desirability of issuing instructions prohibiting officers of the Police Department from checking of motor vehicles on the road for documents etc. except in case the vehicle is involved in accident;

(iv) State Transport Departments/Police Chiefs have also been requested to hold discussions with the representatives of A.I.M.T.C. in this regard; and

(v) with the abolition of Pathkar with effect from 1-9-93, the instances of harassment to drivers, will be substantially reduced.

Development of National Highways by Private Sector

4151. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount asked for and provided for the construction, maintenance and development of National Highways; and

(b) what has been the response of private sector so far as construction and maintenance of National Highways are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) For the current year 1993-94 the amounts asked for and provided are as under :